

Sandwich
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Life of W. B. Fellows.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Selectmen of the Town of Sandwich for the Year
ending February, 1854.

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNTS.

Cash received of Town Treasurer for 1852, as per Auditors' Report March 7, 1853,		\$691 39
Amount of taxes assessed in 1853		4,576 86
Received of Carroll County Bank	\$800 00	
less by discount	24 40	775 60
of County of Carroll		297 80
of Richard Rowe		113 00
of Mrs. D. Abbott		225 00
of Carroll County Bank	600 00	
less by discount	12 30	587 70
of Daniel Q. Bean		130 00
of Calvin Watson		500 00
of Carroll County Bank	800 00	
less by discount	24 40	775 60
of State Literary Fund		148 86
of Treasurer of School Fund notes		133 92
of Samuel F. Vittum for keeping horse		3 00
of State for Railroad tax		14 63
for corn, &c., sold Rev. Mr. Sinclair		4 00
of John T. Tilton		1,000 00
of John M. Smith for stock and grain sold from town farm		36 00
for oxen sold		92 00
		<u>\$10,105 36</u>

Highways and Bridges.

Paid E. R. Beede for surveying Hanson road	\$3 00
E. R. Beede for surveying road at East part town	2 00
Jas. Stone for repairing bridge	3 50
Chas. Vittum for repairing bridge in his highway district	16 23
E. D. Gilman for breaking County road in his highway district	5 60
Geo. Hart for breaking road in his district	6 63
H. D. Howe for labor in his highway district	1 25
J. S. Dinsmore for repairing bridge in his highway district	1 00
Henry G. Page for one day's labor surveying Hanson road	1 00
Jas. Tappan for 226 feet plank for bridge	1 35
John Fogg for 8 days labor on road in Nov. last	6 00
Nath'l Berry for repairing bridge	1 50
David Peaslee for 350 feet plank & repairing bridge	2 50
Henry Weed for 571 feet plank for bridge	3 42
Alpheus Hall for repairing bridges & county road in Oct. last	17 50
George Hart for 1653 feet plank & covering bridge	12 00
do do for 7 days work on county road	5 25
Henry Vittum for 192 ft. plank and repairs on highway	7 25
Parker Prescott for 142 feet plank	85
Joseph L. Huntress for one-half day surveying road	50
Jessee Mudgett for labor on highway	1 25

Paid George W. Downing in part for building Hanson road	400 00
Calvin Hoyt labor and use of plough in his highway district	5 64
H. G. Chick for iron and repairing stone tools	5 34
Mark Huntress, for 1-2 day each, himself and son, surveying road	1 00
Dan'l B. Hoag for building 37 rods highway on Hanson road	62 40
Jeremiah Vittum for land damage for road	110 00
Wm. C. Freese for surveying road	1 00
D. M. Hodgdon for 10 days labor on highway	10 00
Williams White for plank and labor on highway	2 05
Thomas Smith for land damages for road	12 00
Henry D. Howe for building bridge near Josiah Beede's	24 42
Wm. S. Prescott & Henry D. Howe for building Mill Bridge, so called	52 30
Wm. S. Prescott for land damages for road	125 00
John E. & Chas. Chase for land damage for road	10 00
Joseph Frost do do	10 00
H. E. French for railing embankment in his district	9 00
Mark Huntress for land damage for road	90 00
Nathaniel B. Roberts do do	110 00
B. C. Frye do do	140 00
Thomas Burliegh do do	75 00
Samuel Dore do do	100 00
Elisha Marston do do	20 00
Ira W. Dustin for breaking snow in his district March 1853	2 50
Ira W. Dustin for repairing bridge near Ambrose Hall's	1 50
George Hart for breaking snow in Spring of 1853	6 19
E. D. Gilman do do in his dist. in Spring of '53	4 47
Wm. A. Heard for 6 1-4 lbs. powder & 6 lbs. Cast Steel, delivered Hanson Libby.	2 20
do do for 6 1-4 lbs. powder delv'd Elden McGaffey	1 00
J. D. Quimby for repairing bridge &c. in his highway dist.	2 85
Elisha Marston for stone tools for highway district	3 25
George W. Penneman for repairs on bridge in his district	3 00
Alpheus Hall for breaking snow in his dist. on county road	32 19
John Gove for land damage and building road	1574 00
Noah Vittum for 3 days labor on highway	1 92
Nathaniel Weed for 2 1-2 days labor on road	1 87
D. G. Beede for surveying Hanson road, & stone hammer	3 92
Hezekiah Davis for repairing highways	1 00
John M. Smith for services on roads	12 43
Wm. M. Weed for services, expenses, &c.	15 29
Jas. L. Bussell for services and expenses	7 50

\$3,161 81

Support of Paupers not at Town Farm.

Paid E. R. Beede for conveying Sally Blake to farm & horse to Bethlehem	\$3 25
Ira Atwood for balance due for supporting his mother to March 20, 1853	6 78
Ira Atwood toward support of his mother the present year	18 78
Mary Whitcomb towards support of her mother for the present year	22 00
Tamworth for supplies furnished Ebenezer Hall	12 80
do for supplies furnished the family of J. Colby Quimby	1 75
Samuel Fogg for support of Mrs. Moses Quimby	4 00
Albert Fogg for 4 1-2 weeks board of Mrs. Moses Quimby	4 50
T. J. Sweat for medical attendance on S. Scribner, Henry Tewksbury and Ruth Fairfield	28 91

Paid Ira Blackey for pasturing cow for S. Scribner in May 1853	1 00
Joseph Q. Bean towards support of his father the present year	23 50
J. B. Blanchard towards support of B. Blanchard	15 00
John H. Hilton for board of H. Tewksbury, and conveying him to poor house	5 25
Ebenezer Hall on application of D. G. Stevenson	5 00
Enoch Foss for board of Polly Blake	2 00
Chs. White for medical attendance on Jonathan Vittum and Mrs. M. Quimby	18 76
James H. Watson for board and nursing Eleanor Horn	7 00
Francis Coffran for support of his father & mother for the present year	42 00
James L. Busell for expenses to Bethlehem	2 00
Bethlehem for support of Samuel Prescott's family	39 44
Elden M. Gaffey for supplies for E. Hall	3 00
Somersworth for the Andrews family prior to March 1853	84 48
J. C. Wiggin for supplies for Stephen Scribner	1 03
Haverhill for support of Thomas Wallace and family prior to March 1853	25 48
Wm. A. Heard for schoolbooks furnished poor children	3 29
Chas. White for medical attendance on Eleanor Horn and Mrs. M. Quimby	7 01
Wm. A. Heard for supplies	33 50
T. Varney & Co. for supplies	57 50
Jas. L. Bussel for expenses to Bethlehem &c.	6 47
Abner Bennett for supplies furnished George Tappan during his last illness	12 00
T. Sanborn for medical attendance on Hannah J. Quimby	7 00
John Gove for supplies furnished F. Coffran for John Coffran and wife last year	1 00
J. B. Blanchard for balance support of Benj. Blanchard up to March 10, 1854	11 00
Joseph Q. Bean for balance of support of his father for '52	2 50
do do do do do '53	2 50
Haverhill in part for supplies furnished Thos. Wallace during the last sickness of Mrs. Wallace	51 24
Bethlehem for supplies furnished Samuel Prescott during the last illness of Mrs Prescott	56 82
B. H. Hodge for support of Joshua Prescott and wife	30 00
Geo. Sanborn for medical attendance on Geo. Tappan's child	1 50
A. M. Howe for medical attend. on Solomon Wallace's wife	3 00
John M. Smith for journey to Tamworth twice on account of E. Hall	3 12
Wm M. Weed for services and expenses	56 72

\$723 88

Mrs. Thomas Wallace and two children, were all sick at one time which has made a heavy bill against this town. There is yet a bill for supplies, which the Selectmen of Haverhill and this town, think unjust, and is not yet paid. The bill presented amounts to about \$50.00.

Support of Paupers at Poor Farm.

Paid Samuel F. Vittum for services of himself, wife, son and daughter for one year ending Feb. 20, 1854	\$190 00
James N. Snow for blacksmith work	3 00
Thomas J. Sweatt for medical attendance on H. Tewksbury	10 50
Jacob F. Webster for blacksmith work	4 48
Albert W. Quimby for supplies \$19 39, less by paid in products from the farm and cash, 11 15, leaving a balance of	8 24

Paid Ambrose & Burleigh for supplies	24 61
S. W. Webster for repairing cart wheels	1 00
George Perkins for making shoes	5 48
H. Weed for carding wool, .99, less by over-paid his bill last year, .89, leaving a balance of	10
J. C. Wiggan for supplies	29 97
Wm. A. Heard for supplies 16 22, less by paid in products from the farm, 11 67, leaving a balance of	4 55
Chas. White for medical attendance	6 59
T. Varney & Co for supplies 67 13, less for fitting 2 set children's shoes, 3 50, leaving a balance of	63 63
Estate of T. Gilman for cow, making cider, &c, 22 90, less by 3 pigs sold last Spring, 6 00, balance	16 90
Richard M. Sinclair toward his support for preaching the current year	4 00
Moses Quimby for supplies	5 90
Morrill B. Sanborn for apple machine	75
John M. Smith for conveying Hosea Hadley & woman & J. Colby Quimby's family to poor house	2 00
do do for supplies furnished farm	26 75
do do for pasturing oxen the season	6 50
do do for superintending farm and 1 day's appraisal	7 00
J. Wentworth for supplies	7 27

 \$429 20

Incidental Expenses.

Paid E. R. Beede for running line between Waterville & Sandwich	\$6 00
J. E. Blanchard for 1 days service as constable	1 00
L. D. Sawyer for bill outstanding March 1, 1853	20 00
Teachers' Institute, money required by law	18 63
Moses Weed for abatement of his poll tax, being more than 70 years old	1 92
Clark & Cutler nonresident highway tax	2 12
David G. Bean for mistake in taxing his poll	1 92
Lemuel F. Vittum for error in tax	1 20
Samuel Dinsmore for completing Pound as per contract	15 00
Moses Severance for abatement of his poll tax, being more than 70 years of age	1 92
Albert Tilton for 6 days service enrolling militia	6 00
F. A. Williams for 6 days do do do	6 00
Stephen Dinsmore for 6 days do do do	6 00
Gilman S. Felch for 6 days do do do	6 00
do do for 1 days service as constable, Nov. 1852	1 00
do do for 2 do do do March 1853	2 00
do do for dinner furnished Alvin Bryant while under arrest	25
Lewis Q. Smith for 7 days service enrolling militia	7 00
R. C. Stevens for printing town reports, March 1853	23 00
Otis Meade for travel & atten. as witness, S. Durgin vs. Sandwich	2 09
J. C. Wiggan do do do do do	1 04
A. L. Cox for abatement of his poll tax, being more than 70	1 92
Richard Rowe for interest on note	68 81
Carroll County Bank for interest on note	11 28
Wm. A. Heard for stationery	18
Elisha Marston for services as Treasurer of School Fund notes	10 00
John Gove for services as ag't for town in relation to Eastern road	7 00
T. Varney & Co. for town chest and lock	4 38
Geo. M. Hoag for abatement of tax on horse	08

Paid Benj. B. Hoit for 7 days enrolling Militia	7 00
Saml. F. Vittum for abatement of school house tax in dist. No. 3	1 88
Miss Abigail Hackett for abatement of poll tax for 1852	1 72
Samuel Fogg for abatement of tax having had his barn blown down and other property destroyed	2 88
Asa C. Clark for mistake in taxation	3 20
Jonathan Moody for abatement of tax on 2 cows	24
The several highway nonresident taxes	27 80
A. B. Hoyt for visiting schools, making reports &c.	40 42
Albert Ethridge for 2 days service as Superintending School Committee	2 06
Stepen Cogan for measuring road built by John Gove	50
L. B. Taskee for services as Superintending School Com.	6 00
John M. Moulton for expenses	4 90
John M. Smith for services as assessor &c.	36 50
Jas. L. Bussell for services and expenses running town lines	11 45
John M. Smith for expenses &c.	9 25
Jas. L. Bussell for services as Selectman and expenses	56 50
Wm. M. Weed for services and expenses	108 02

\$554 00

Paid T. J. Sweatt for medical attendance on Lucinda Goss	\$3 00
Moses Butler for support of Polly Vittum 52 weeks from the 26th day of April 1853	60 67
Moses Butler for balance of support up to April 26 1853	27 17
J. F. Wallace for support of B. Bryant up to Apl. 25, '53	66 50
do do do do do since do	20 00
Saml. H. Dolloff for support of his mother up to 26th Apl. '53	36 50
Wm. A. Heard for 1 yd. Lawn for robe for B. Bryant	42
Chas. White for medicine for Elizabeth Quimby	72
J. T. Webster for digging grave for B. Bryant	1 00
Mrs Donovan for making robe for do	25
Nathl. Berry for coffin for do	3 50
T. Sanborn for medical attendance on do up to Apl. 25, '53	23 63
Ira Atwood for support of his mother	2 62
Saml. H. Dolloff in part for support of his mother	12 00

\$257 98

Bounty.

Paid D. Rowe for bounty on 3 Siberian Lynxes	\$3 00
do do for bounty on 1 Bear	2 00
Henry Weed for bounty on 3 Siberian Lynxes	3 00
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	\$8 00

Inventory of Personal Property as Appraised, February 19, 1853, and February 18, 1854.

1853.		1854.	
1 pair oxen	\$80 00	4 oxen	\$150 00
3 cows	54 00	4 cows	90 00
4 three years old steers	82 00	1 two years old heifer	12 00
2 two years old heifers	20 00	3 one year old do	21 00
16 sheep	40 00	15 sheep	45 00
1 shoat	12 00	2 shoats	24 00
9 tons hay	90 00	8 tons hay	60 00
60 bushels corn	60 00	45 bushels corn	45 00
18 bushels oats	9 00	15 do oats	7 50
1-4 do peas	37	1 do peas	1 50
188 pounds pork	18 00	7 do wheat	14 00
250 do beef	15 00	250 pounds clear pork	30 00

1853.

140 bushels potatoes	42 00
4 barrels cider	5 00
1 do vinegar	2 00
2-3 do flour	4 50
20 pounds lard	2 00
1 firkin	25
40 pounds dried apples	1 60
25 lbs. candles	3 13
2 ploughs	7 75
1 harrow	3 00
1 pair wheels and two carts	8 50
4 ox yokes, 3 irons, 5 pr. bows	5 50
3 ox chains and 2 iron bars	6 00
clevis and pin, and ox sled	2 50
4 axes, 3 shovels and manure forks	4 50
5 hay forks	1 67
5 hoes, 1 sickle	1 00
6 rakes, 1 breaking up hoe	1 59
soythes and snaths	1 50
1 new hand saw	1 00
8 mugs	56
8 articles new tin ware	1 45
1 new water pail	25
9 1-2 lbs clover seed	1 58
3-8 bu herds grass seed	1 25
1 new harness for weaving	1 75
8 new sheets	3 50
8 new blankets	12 00
bed used by Nancy Tewksbury	2 00
bed used by Elizabeth Quimby	8 00
bed used by Lois Beede	8 50
bed used by Abigail Sinclair	4 00
bed of D. Atkinson	4 00
bed of Sarah Eastman	4 00
bed unoccupied	6 00
bedding not included in the above	9 14
15 cords hard wood	22 50
40 cords hemlock do	20 00
1-2 bushel measure	17
3 grain chests	75
dry casks	1 00
lot pine boards	1 80
wood saw and frame	1 00
2 M shingles	3 50
1 stone drag	1 00
40 sap buckets, a sap tub	2 30
beetle and wedge	33
grindstone	2 50
11 brown pans	1 15
15 knives and forks	1 34
12 spoons	38
12 cups and saucers and 12 do }	2 85
30 plates, 4 bowls and 1 dish }	
6 bowls and stone jug	1 25
1 clothes basket	50
1 wash board	25
4 reels and three table covers	1 00
1 new table cover	75
4 yds. crash for towels	50
5 towels	70
4 meal bags	92
7 tables and 1 tin baker	2 81
1 box stove	3 00
3 cases drawers	4 75
3 wheels	3 00
1 loom and apparatus	5 00
lot wheels in chamber	2 00

1854.

200 do beef	12 00
80 bushels potatoes	26 00
2 barrels cider	3 00
1-2 do vinegar	1 00
33 lbs lard	4 12
1 firkin	25
14 pounds candles	2 00
10 do dried apples	70
2 ploughs	7 00
1 harrow	2 50
1 pair wheels and 2 carts	8 00
3 ox chains	3 00
2 iron bars	3 00
3 ox yokes, irons, and 5 pair bows	5 50
clevis and pin, and 2 ox sleds	5 00
5 axes, 2 shovels & manure forks	5 50
5 hay forks	1 67
4 hoes and 1 sickle	1 00
7 rakes and 1 sod hoe	1 75
3 scythes and snaths	2 50
1 handsaw	1 00
7 mugs, and 8 articles of tin ware	1 25
1 water pail	25
1 weaver's harness	75
8 sheets and 8 blankets	13 00
4 new blankets	7 00
1-3 barrel flour	3 67
20 yds. sheeting	1 80
bed used by Nancy Tewksbury	2 00
bed used by Elizabeth Quimby	8 00
bed used by Lois Beede	8 00
bed used by Abigail Sinclair	4 00
bed of D. Atkinson	4 00
bed of Sarah Eastman	4 00
bed of Mrs. C. Bean	4 00
bed unoccupied	6 00
bed used by Sally Blake	6 00
bedding not included in the above	6 00
1 barrel soap	4 00
50 cords wood	50 00
1-2 bushel measure	17
3 grain chests	75
dry casks	1 00
lot pine boards	1 80
wood saw and frame	1 00
2 M shingle	3 50
1 stone drag	50
36 sap-buckets & sap tub	2 00
beetle and wedge	50
grindstone	2 50
14 brown earthen pans	1 40
13 knives and 11 forks	1 00
12 spoons	34
12 cups & saucers, 23 plates, }	2 50
9 bowls and 1 dish }	
2 stone jugs, 2 clothes baskets	1 50
4 reels and 4 table covers	1 25
4 towels and 4 meal bags	1 75
7 tables and 1 tin baker	2 81
1 box stove and 5 case drawers	7 75
3 wheels	3 00
loom and apparatus	5 00
lot wheels in chamber	2 00
1 meal chest	6 00
3-4 bushels rye meal	75
1 cooking stove and apparatus	10 00
3 sad irons and 4 shovel & tongs	1 75

1853.

1 meal chest	60
1 cook stove	10 00
apparatus	2 00
3 sad irons and 4 shovel and tongs	1 75
1 five pail kettle, and 1 small one	2 50
4 iron pots and 1 fry basin	2 25
3 old tea kettles	75
6 tin pans and 3 pails	1 00
1 cream pot and 3 plates	50
1 pewter platter	25
2 trays and 3 wooden pails	65
1 time piece	5 00
20 chairs and 4 trunks	5 00
2 looking glasses and steelyard	1 00
4 cider casks	2 00
1 stone jug and 11 baskets	2 50
1 pump	3 96
1 sugar box	33

\$783 38

1854.

1 five pail kettle and 1 small do	2 50
4 iron pots	2 00
1 fry basin and 3 old tea kettles	1 00
6 tin pans and pails	50
1 cream pot, 3 plates and 1 } pewter platter }	75
3 wood pails and 1 new tray	65
1 time piece	5 00
20 chairs and 3 trunks	4 75
2 looking glasses and steel yards	1 00
2 new glass lamps	30
1 new lantern	75
4 cider casks	2 00
8 baskets	1 50
1 sugar box	33
1 pump repaired	4 00
1 sheet iron stove & new tin kettle	3 14
1-2 bushel salt	1 25

\$854 88

Recapitulation.

1853.

Stock	\$288 00
Provisions	252 85
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	\$530 85
Farming Tools, &c.	552 53
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	\$783 38

1854.

Stock	\$342 00
Provisions	227 02
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	\$569 02
Farming Tools, &c.	285 83
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	\$854 83

Expenses of the farm		429 20
Deducting stock and articles sold	\$164 32	
Excess of Inventory for 1853	71 47	
Cash received of County for support of E. Quimby and Benja. Bryant	74 00	\$309 79
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	Balance	\$119 41

Mrs. Elizabeth Quimby, Mrs. Abigail Sinclair and Mrs. Nancy Tewksbury, have received 52 week support, each	156
Miss Sarah Blake and Rebecca Atwood's child have received 45 weeks support, each	90
Hannah Quimby has received 10 weeks support,	10
Hosea Hadley do do 6 do do	6
Pretended wife of Hadley 3 do do	3
J. Colby Quimby's wife & child 16 do do do	32
Two other children of said Quimby, 30 weeks support, each	60
Benjamin Bryant 11 do do	11
Henry Tewksbury 6 do do	6
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Whole number of weeks support	374

It will be seen by the above invoice of personal property, that most of the things belonsng to the farm, remain about the same as they have for the three last preceeding years. But the corn and potatoe crops falling short of the last year, reduces somewhat the excess of inventory. It will be seen also, that the stock is of more value than last year, which makes up the deficiency. There have been 374 weeks board furnished at the poor farm, giving the cost of a single week for each individual 32 cents, including Physician's bills &c. It is believed by the board of Selectmen, that Mr. Vittum has managed the affairs at the farm well and faithfully.

General Account.

The Selectmen charge themselves with		\$10,105 36
They credit themselves by having paid	State Treas'r	\$322 00
	County do	450 82
	Teachers Insti.	18 63
	on Co. road	54 71
	J. T. Tilton	1,042 33
Highways & bridges		3161 81
Incidental expenses		554 00
External Poor		723 88
Paupers at Poor Farm		429 20
County Paupers		257 98
Bounty		8 00
School		1,447 51
School House		268 07
Balance in hands of Selectmen and Collector		1,366 42—\$10,105 36

Liabilities of the Town, Feb. 20, 1854.

Richard Rowe	\$981 81
Mrs. D. Abbott	225 00
Carroll County Bank	2750 00
Calvin Watson	500 00
Daniel Q. Bean	130 00
A. Blanchard	79 52
Hobbs & Sanborn	48 70
Somersworth claimed for Andrews family	33 64
Haverhill claims about	50 00
Due School District No. 1	59 92
do do No. 2	9 00
do do No. 3	48 00
do do No. 5	1 15
do do No. 10	5 22
do do No. 11	55
do do No. 15	33
do do No. 18	40
do do No. 20	4 74

\$4927 98

Less by balance in hands of Collector & Selectmen 1366 42

\$3561 56

[Errors and omissions excepted.]

Wm. M. WEED, } Selectmen
 JOHN. M. SMITH, } of
 JAMES L. BUSELL, } Sandwich.

Sandwich, Feb. 27.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1854.

In presenting our report for the past year, your Committee deem it unnecessary, as heretofore, to urge upon our fellow citizens motives for raising additional means in the shape of taxes to support our Schools, for the response to our former request was prompt and liberal; nor do we think it important to argue at this time, that education of the people has been the cause of the success of our government thus far, that this alone can perpetuate that government to posterity, and that every citizen has duties to perform in preserving and perfecting it. The beneficial influence of good Schools, and the pernicious and demoralizing effects of bad ones upon the community, are more attentively considered since the powerful influences of our excellent Board of Education have been exhibiting to us clearer views of the duties we owe to the rising generation. We recommend to all the perusal of the Seventh Annual Report of this Board, which has been distributed to our several school districts. This document is a very superior and masterly production, embracing so many useful hints and important directions for the management of Common Schools, that we need something more than modest assurance to sustain us in our more feeble essay; we even shrink from the attempt to illustrate this important subject by any new thoughts of our own. The State has given us a Common School System, the most perfect of any to be found, and has lately increased the means for its support; the best laws, however, in relation to it are productive of little good, if the people are not fully impressed with their utility. Whenever our Common Schools shall be assailed by political or other party strife, well may we all cry—"God save the State," for it will certainly require His special aid.

If we can say nothing new, we cannot too often repeat that there are too many small school districts in this town. The multiplication of districts is a real obstacle in the way of the most effective and desirable results of the school system, one of the results being, as a matter of course, to shorten the terms of the school and lessen the wages of teachers. Without fair compensation, well educated ones decline service, or if good teachers do engage, the school of 20 scholars costs just twice as much to each pupil as would a school of 40, as it regards the wages of a teacher. From our own experience, we know that there is more intellectual activity, with the commendable emulation to excel, among the larger number of pupils than among the smaller. Without doubt, it would be more convenient in the winter for all scholars to live near the school-house than at an excessively inconvenient distance; yet, a school of higher grade at the distance of two miles, would answer the exalted purpose for which these minor fountains of knowledge were designed, far better than a smaller and poorer one within one mile. We should rather strive to have each school district contain as many as 40 scholars, at least, than to degrade them by sub-division, until they become almost worthless, notwithstanding the extravagant cost to sustain them. We wish to see our schools advance from their present condition till the most of our youth can receive a good education. The Common Schools will never fulfill this wise and benevolent purpose for our children, by the distribution of our school money into such small portions as fall to the share of at least ten of our districts. We have one school in Dist. No. 8, with only twelve scholars, who have received about eight weeks instruction in the whole year; whereas, if the same scholars had been in No. 18 they would have had exactly eight months, and under a model teacher.

The next thing to be desired in connection with schools, is a large, convenient and well ventilated house, suited not only to the present need but to the prospective increase of the school, and to be situated in a pleasant and healthy location. We will not enter into details about the architectural plan for the construction of the school house, for good models are now more common in our State than formerly. As scholars will make greater proficiency in their studies in pleasant rooms than in inconvenient ones, and as young minds receive instruction more readily from illustrations to the eye than without such aids, some large black-boards and outline maps upon the walls of the school-room, are absolutely necessary, and are still wanting in some of our best schools. The school-house in Dist. No. 3 has been re-constructed during the past year, without enlargement of its former size. It is now a small, nice, low-posted and tight box, with a great box-stove to warm it. In about an hour from the assem-

bling of the school, we found the atmosphere almost insupportable. There was no means of lowering the windows from the top, or ventilating through the roof; the only way was to throw up the windows, open the doors, and let the cold air blow through directly upon some of the pupils. It is the opinion of learned Physicians that the bad air of close rooms is a poison, and that it is the incipient cause of the consumption so prevalent in this part of our country. The fact has been well attested that even beasts when kept in close, ill-ventilated stables, have died of this disease, and in many cases tubercles have been found on the lungs of those slaughtered for the shambles. School Committees have proved by experiment that when they have closed the ventilators of the school-room, for a very short time, unknown to the school, the scholars lost the spirit and animation which they had previously manifested, and became drowsy and sluggish in their studies and recitations. It is therefore no wonder that so many young and blooming children, thus shut up together to breathe the elements of disease, should become pale faced and delicate, since the seeds of sickness and pain have been encouraged to grow and have germinated in the nursery of Death. So much has been said and written by Physiologists during the past quarter of a century, about this niggardly habit of suppressing the pure air of heaven from children, by shutting them up in this heedless manner, to be nearly suffocated by the constantly accumulating odor of fetid and noxious gasses, so offensive as to make one sick on entering from the open air, that we regret the necessity of introducing this topic. Our only apology is, that we believe too much importance cannot be attached to a subject with which the health and mental development of youth are so intimately connected. The money allowed for repairs, in the hands of every Prudential Committee, if applied for the purpose, would afford a cheap and ready remedy for the nuisance. There still remain a few old school-houses that need repairs. The one in Dist. No. 2, being in the most ruinous condition of any, from the destruction of the seats and forms, is now unsuitable for the purpose intended.

Having pre-supposed the benefits of convenient school districts and good school-houses in the same, we hope to be pardoned if we suggest, with proper respect, that the voters in each district be suitably impressed with the importance of choosing for Prudential Committee, without regard to political preference, one of their most intelligent men, who carefully reads the Annual Report of the Board of Education, and is willing to perform the duties of the office with cheerfulness and alacrity. Some of the embarrassments of the Superintending School Committee, occasioned by their ignorance of the commencement and duration of the term of each school, we think would then be obviated, and the committee of one would feel more personal responsibility about his school than when the duty is shared among a greater number.

The next thing in course, is the teacher who takes delight in the profession, of mild and amiable character, who feels responsibility not only for the intellectual, but moral character of youth, and who is capable of moulding their minds and hearts that they may become useful and honored members of society. The best educated should be selected for the larger schools, but all should be fair scholars, naturally qualified to teach and govern, with attainments not only accurate and extensive, but fully up to spirit of the age in the approved methods of illustrating and teaching the different branches of school studies. The hand writing of every teacher should be at least plain and fair; yet several teachers in this town are hardly up to the standard of easy and rapid writing, any more than they are in good spelling. In the examination of our schools the past year, we have been more particularly impressed with this fact, that with a single exception, the teachers who have managed with the greatest method and system, and have taught with the greatest accuracy, are those who have attended the several terms of the County Institute. All who have attended them, by coming in contact with teachers of greater ability than themselves, seem to have become conscious of some defects in their former ways of teaching, and without demur, are more willing to adopt better and more comprehensive views.

Our school system, for many years before the State became aroused to a sense of its imperfections, was generally supposed to be fair, and many persons received what we would now think a tolerably good education; but far too many of these old scholars have unquestionably fallen into negligent habits in their method of conversation and pronunciation of words. Too many of our teachers also at present are faulty in these particulars; but they who have run the gauntlet of verbal criticism at the sessions of the Institute, have become more wary than formerly; they study their Dictionary more to learn the right pronunciation of words, and they more correctly teach our language to their pupils, by rightly using it themselves. Children being great imitators of those whom they esteem, are more apt to learn their grammar from the conversation of their faithful teacher, than from the rules of Syntax in a book. We anticipate the time when no teacher will be employed who is not a good reader and capable of teaching the rules of reading. We think it of great importance for teachers and pupils to study to comprehend the ideas and emotions of the author, and try to

read each passage as the author would have spoken it. Your committee has tried to impress this method upon teachers and scholars; some have faithfully carried out this plan, as in Dist. No. 1; others partially or entirely neglecting it. In four of the schools visited, the only object seemed to be to read a certain amount with little regard to articulation, accent, emphasis, or inflection. We can extenuate the neglect of teachers of these schools, only by the benevolent supposition that they were themselves ignorant of the rules of reading; for in former times, these rules were slurred over and disregarded, as a matter of course, in nearly all our schools. We are not alone in the belief that it would be much better to read fewer lessons each day with strict attention to the rules, than a greater number in a faulty and careless manner. The teacher should understand, and be able to make every pupil who can read words without spelling them, also to be familiar with these rules; the members of the class should be watchful for every mistake, not only in the miscalling of words, but of bad articulation or want of proper accent. We sincerely assure any parent who thinks the teacher is "mocking" his child by repeating after him an awkwardly pronounced syllable, for the child's improvement, that the thing is not meant as he supposes.— We like to have a teacher read a verse in the best manner, until most of the class can follow him correctly in the same style; and we think the judicious parent will not authorize his child to rebel against the commands of a teacher, when he wishes him to read over again a verse in the desired style.

We have always been in favor of employing the best educated female teachers, in winter as well as in summer schools, as a matter of economy, not meaning to insinuate that their services are of less value than those of male teachers, but as our best male teachers will not remain to teach for less than the wages they can receive abroad, they leave the field of competition more free to the former. There can be no doubt that female teachers are better than male teachers for young scholars, for they have more gentleness and patience; and with far increased wages, their labor would be more economical than that of male teachers, and the terms of the schools in our small districts would be lengthened. The female teacher, with constant employment and proper compensation, would be stimulated to greater exertion to sustain herself in the highest rank of the profession. The highly educated and accomplished female teacher, when employed in her vocation, is not to be left alone to take her chance with large, unruly and headstrong boys, without the sympathy and co-operation of the sober minded inhabitants of the district. From the strictest comparison of which we are capable, and with unbiassed judgment, we do not hesitate to express our opinion and belief, that some of our female teachers have not only equalled our best educated and most experienced male teachers, in securing good order in the school, but that they have also displayed equal ability in imparting thorough instruction upon the plans recommended by the Board of Education. If all parents could be brought to believe that the conventional rules of society are not arbitrary customs to be set at defiance by any who choose; if they would teach their children at home that good manners are a passport to favor with all men, and that all who enjoy the privileges and benefits of society are bound by their own welfare and future prospects in life to observe its wholesome rules; if parents would also feel the assurance that the faithful and disinterested teacher who enters upon her duties, can have no other possible motives aside from the just remuneration, than those of charity and good will to all, besides performing her duties acceptably under the direction and supervision of an authority prescribed by law, with which authority the parent has no more right to interfere than herself to disobey; if they would candidly and faithfully attend to their own "duties" as well as to those of the teachers whom they have employed, then there could be no doubt but our school system would accomplish all the purposes for which it was designed. When we have witnessed the quiet behavior so generally observed in the school room, where the quiet manner and subdued tone of the teacher's voice has preserved perfect order; where the kind word and the pleasant look have had their genial influence, and where the proper tact of the teacher has drawn out the hidden energies of the dull or indifferent child and made him emulous of commendation; where the head-strong boy has been restrained and rendered orderly by well directed appeals to his manliness, rather than by threats and blows; when we have seen these things, and the high grade to which some of these schools have arrived under the instruction of female teachers, we have often wished that parents would only visit them and judge for themselves. We doubt not the highest meed of praise would be awarded, where otherwise it is sometimes churlishly refused. We would never hereafter hear that a modest, energetic and capable woman cannot teach a winter school as well as a man; and people would insist upon their rights to remove unruly boys who will not be controlled without an appeal to the law.

Your committee after their appointment, as one of their first duties, gave public notice that they would meet persons who intended to teach, for the purpose of examination. A few came on three several days in the month of May. It is to be hoped

that candidates hereafter, will lessen the expense of their certificates, by complying with a custom more economical than that of individual examinations.

To one of their number was delegated the duty of visiting the schools. All of the schools in town, during the past year, have received the personal supervision of a member of the Committee, (unless where the school contained but three scholars, with the exception of one visited by a member of the Committee in his own neighborhood, and two others not intentionally neglected.

The order of all the schools that we have visited, with the exception of two, was good, and it speaks well for the character of almost all these schools, that this good order was effected by moral suasion alone. We believe the schools have generally been very prosperous, with the exceptions before named, and some of them in a remarkable degree, in all the studies. In school No. 18 there was incredible progress made by a large class of beginners in reading. There has been more attention to regular times for writing, and there is more good penmanship in the schools than formerly.—The writing of spelling lessons on the slate, in many of the schools, has aided in forming a free and easy style.

Our visits were always cheerfully received, as appeared to us, by a hearty welcome, and with the disposition on the part of the pupils to do their best, and our object was not only to observe the management of the teachers, but by thorough examinations of the classes in all their studies, and by our remarks and advice to stimulate not only pupils but teachers, also to be accurate in them.

The securing of good government in Districts No. 2 and No. 9 seems to have been the most difficult task of their teachers in the winter schools. These schools will never prosper and come up to the common grade, so long as their usual indifference is manifested by some of the citizens toward their teachers. An unfortunate habit of fault finding, only disheartens their faithful teachers, crushes their spirits, and impels them with the natural feeling of honest indignation, to yield the unequal contest of truth and honest intentions against detraction and calumny; their schools become unquiet in the cheerless old houses, as one would reasonably expect, and their greatest anxiety is to retreat from an unfortunate position, without entirely losing their reputation and forfeiting their wages. We may appear presumptuous; it is even with regret that we feel obliged by our honest duty to give our undisguised impressions, and considering so much fault has been found with the teachers in these places, it is high time that some fault should be found with the parents, if any can be found. As we have not space in our short essay to do more than just touch upon this topic, we leave it to the consideration of candid persons in those districts to apply the remedy.

Where so many good teachers have done their best, it seems invidious to make distinctions in our necessarily short Report. We owe a passing remark to schools, Nos. 1 and 18, where the most marked improvement has been witnessed in reading, chirography, writing of compositions and rapid spelling on the slate. The order of the school room has been equally good in some other schools, but taking into consideration all their studies and exercises, these schools must be justly considered pre-eminent. The same teacher has been employed in each of these schools, both in summer and winter, and it has proved that one good teacher the whole year in a school, is better than two others in succession, when of equal merit.

Teachers in other districts deserve especial commendation, but our report, which we fear is already too long, does not permit us to notice each one separately with particular remarks. The numerous attendance of parents with their Prudential Committee, in Dist. No. 10, at the closing examination of their school, evinced a commendable interest in the welfare of their school, which is worthy of imitation; and their teacher, also, has shown himself equal to the highest duties of his station. We feel admonished to close, with the hope that these few sentiments imperfectly expressed but which your committee hold in common with others, may find acceptance in every dwelling in town, and awaken more attention to a highly important subject.

AARON B. HOYT, for the Committee.